



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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### PSC ESTABLISHES CALLING SCOPES WORKING GROUP

Jefferson City (March 24, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has issued an order establishing a working group to investigate the Metropolitan Calling Area Plan (MCA) and rural calling scopes in Missouri.

The Commission believes that a working group will be able to address the status of the MCA and rural calling scopes in Missouri. This working group is to suggest improvements and highlight impediments to any suggested improvements. The working group format is expected to facilitate the free exchange of ideas among interested parties.

The Commission anticipates that this working group will investigate and consider whether the MCA plan, and calling scopes in general, should be amended, and if so, how. The working group is expected to explore the costs of modifying or expanding the MCA and then determine whether consumers would consider the benefits sufficient to outweigh the costs.

Another issue to be examined is Commission authority to order changes to the MCA. The Commission's order states: "Statutory changes may be necessary before the Commission can require certain modifications to the MCA. Many of the parties, however, have indicated a willingness to work toward *voluntary* modifications to the MCA."

MCA is a service allowing expanded calling in the Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis metropolitan areas. For a flat monthly rate, subscribing customers can call neighboring exchanges toll-free.

The working group is expected to evaluate rural calling scopes in Missouri as well. Included in this review is to be a thorough analysis of whether, and if so, what type of, changes should be made to rural calling scopes.

Members of this working group will be appointed in a separate Commission order.

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